

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0843

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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AMCONSUL UDORN POUCH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE POUCH

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DIRINS CODEP (COEXM)

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: AUGUST RESULTS OF THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN THAILAND

REF BANGKOK 22412

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1. SUMMARY. DURING AUGUST, 1559 REFUGEES LEFT THAILAND FOR THE UNITED STATES. A TOTAL OF 1503 LEFT UNDER THE IPP PROGRAMS AND 56 DEPARTED UNDER OTHER PROGRAMS. TO DATE, A TOTAL OF 9180 REFUGEES HAVE DEPARTED UNDER THE IPP PROGRAMS. FOUR BOATS CARRYING 115 REFUGEES ARRIVED IN THAILAND. INS OFFICERS APPROVED A TOTAL OF 5550 REFUGEES UNDER THE LRP PROGRAM. PRESCREENING WAS RESUMED IN

NONGKHAI AND BAN NAM YAO CAMPS DURING AUGUST. SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES WERE RECEIVED FOR 691 IPP REFUGEES. CUMULATIVE LRP ASSURANCES TOTAL 1343. END SUMMARY.
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2. DURING AUGUST, 1559 REFUGEES LEFT THAILAND FOR THE UNITED STATES. OF THESE 1347 LEFT UNDER IPP-77 OF WHOM 1327 WERE INLAND REFUGEES AND 20 WERE BOAT REFUGEES. ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX REFUGEES DEPARTED UNDER IPP-78. ADDITIONALLY, SEVENTEEN REFUGEES DEPARTED UNDER HUMANITARIAN PAROLE, TWENTY-FIVE DEPARTED ON IMMIGRANT VISAS, AND FOURTEEN DEPARTED UNDER THE OLD LAO PROGRACUMULATIVE IPP DEPARTURES TO DATE TOTAL 9180. OF THESE, 5603 ARE IPP-77 INLAND REFUGEES, 2239 ARE IPP-77 BOAT REFUGEES AND 1338 ARE IPP-78 BOAT REFUGEES.

3. FOUR BOATS CARRYING 115 REFUGEES ARRIVED IN THAILAND DURING AUGUST AND SIX BABIES WERE BORN IN THE BOAT CAMPS, BOOSTING AUGUST ARRIVALS TO 121.

4. INS INTERVIEWS CONTINUED IN LOEI, NONGKHAI, UBON, LAEM SING, AND THE NORTHERN CAMPS DURING AUGUST. INS OFFICER BOYCE ARRIVED IN BANGKOK AUGUST 3 AND DEPARTED THE SAME EVENING FOR LOEI CAMP. INS OFFICER SALOIS DEPARTED FOR SINGAPORE AUGUST 8, AND OFFICER HOLTHUS DEPARTED FOR HONG KONG AUGUST 11. OFFICER BOYCE CONTINUED
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INTERVIEWING THROUGH AUGUST 28, WHEN HE DEPARTED FOR SINGAPORE. LRP APPROVALS NOW TOTAL 5550. OF THESE, 5000 ARE LAND REFUGEES AND 550 ARE BOAT REFUGEES.

5. PRESCREENING RESUMED AUGUST 7 IN NONGKHAI CAMP. CUMULATIVE STATISTICS SINCE MARCH 21 ARE AS FOLLOWS:
TOTAL CASE/INDIVIDUALS PRESCREENED: 4862/14,485
TOTAL CASE/INDIVIDUALS NOT QUALIFIED (MARRIED SIBLING): 99/425
TOTAL CASES/INDIVIDUALS NOT QUALIFIED (UNACCOMPANIED MINOR): 178/214
TOTAL CASES/INDIVIDUALS NOT QUALIFIED FOR OTHER REASONS: 1691/4462
TOTAL CASES/INDIVIDUALS POTENTIALLY QUALIFIED: 2894/9384

- CATEGORY I 1202
- CATEGORY II 778
- CATEGORY III: 7206
- CATEGORY IV : 198

- TOTAL : 9384

THE PRESCREENING TEAM IS PRESENTLY IN THE NORTH. BAN NAM
YAO CAMP IS COMPLETED AND THE TEAM HAS MOVED TO MAEJARIM,
ALSO IN NAN PROVINCE.

6. WE RECEIVED SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES FOR 691 IPP
REFUGEES DURING AUGUST. OF THOSE, 418 WERE FOR LAND
REFUGEES, AND 273 WERE FOR BOAT REFUGEES. A CUMULATIVE

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TOTAL OF 10,959 ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR IPP
REFUGEES: 7177 FOR LAND REFUGEES AND 3782 FOR BOAT
REFUGEES. LRP ASSURANCES TOTAL 1343.

7. DEPARTMENT ACTION REQUESTED:

A. WE HAVE ALREADY DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO
OBTAIN FUNDING FOR LRP SO THAT DEPARTURE RATE CAN BE
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SUSTAINED. FOR OUR PLANNING PURPOSES WE NEED AN ESTIMATE
AS TO EARLIEST LIKELY DEPARTURE DATE FOR LRP REFUGEES.
IF WE ARE ABLE TO PLAN TOWARD SUCH A TARGET DEPARTURE DATE,
WE WILL BE ABLE TO BRING THESE CASES TO THE TRANSIT CENTER
AND MAKE ADVANCE BOOKINGS THUS MINIMIZING LEAD TIME FOR
DEPARTURE OF LRP CASES ONCE FUNDING AVAILABLE. OTHERWISE
THERE WILL BE AN INEVITABLE FURTHER DELAY IN DEPARTURES
IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PLAN THESE REFUGEE MOVEMENTS FOR
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF AIRLINES.

B. IN AUGUST WE RECEIVED 691 IPP SPONSORSHIPS AND
350 LRP SPONSORSHIPS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE WE
WILL NEED TO RECEIVE SPONSORSHIPS AT THE RATE OF ABOUT
1600 A MONTH FROM NOW ON IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A DEPARTURE AT
ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL. IS THIS A REALISTIC EXPECTATION?
ABRAMOWITZ

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